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Ralph Ernest Gould Correspondence

R.E. Gould

Holman Day

Maine State Library

Macaulay Company

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GOULD, R E

Lisbon, July 14, 1870-

March 23, 1945

Mr. R. E. Gould
Anson
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Congratulations upon COUNTRY STOREKEEPER, which we are eagerly anticipating both for its story and for its author, who is, we understand, a Maine man. A book of such varied experiences cannot fail to be of interest, and it is always a pleasure to welcome a new name to the roster of Maine's literary people.

Possibly you know of the Maine Author Collection, an exhibit of about fifteen hundred inscribed presentation volumes, written by those born in Maine, resident here, or writing about the state. These volumes are everything from cook books to legal studies, from histories to children's stories, from books on art to books on guns. And the inscriptions are a most distinctive touch. Some of our authors write tributes to Maine as the inscription; we find pen-and-ink sketches, autobiographical anecdotes, sometimes even verse. They all are original, and lend an especial interest to a very fine collection. These books are permanently cared for, and we also gather all available biographical information, book reviews, photographs when possible, and correspondence.

We hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of COUNTRY STOREKEEPER to the Maine Author Collection. Please accept our best wishes for the success of the book, and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--1

Secretary

R. E. GOULD
GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Distributor of
American Oil Company Products

ANSON, MAINE,

March 24 1945

J. M. T. W. Jacob.

Dear Madam:

I shall be glad to send a copy of the "Country Storekeeper" when received, for your collection, but I am afraid that some of your authors might feel insulted to find my book and theirs near each other. I can not claim writer but I used to be a lover sometimes in a letter to the editor of the Lewiston Journal and to A. G. Staples sometimes used to put my letter in a box in "Just Talk" and use it as a text to talk on and never always be agreed with me. I enjoyed myself at Maine farm, Maine ancestor for 200 years, 150 of us, which were on the old home farm in France where my nephew John Gould resides and who induced me to write this book. The book is about Maine people. My father once told me that a real book had rather make some one laugh than make a thousand dollars and if I can make someone laugh with my story of the struggles of a Country Storekeeper I shall be well repaid for my efforts. May

R. E. GOULD
GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Distributor of
American Oil Company Products

ANSON, MAINE,

194

former Stereograph who tipped the
Miss. told me that she is sure this
book was written in the worst
handwriting of any ever put out
so I feel sure of one. A. if nothing
more, A. S. Staples intimated so
much once. The book is advertised
to heat in May. I have been collecting
photos to guide the artist who will
illustrate it with fine drawings. Hoping
that the book will not prove such
a disappointment that you will feel
moved to return it.

Yours very truly
R. E. Gould

March 27, 1945

Mr. R. E. Gould
Anson
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Your friendly response delights us, and we anticipate eagerly the publication of COUNTRY STOREKEEPER. We shall have the book, of course, in the lending section of our library -- in fact, a prospective purchaser was at the library recently to inquire whether or not it had yet been issued, and we know there will be many calls for the book. Our lending copy will be ordered from a book dealer, but it is good to know that the Maine Author Collection may expect an inscribed presentation copy.

It is kind of you to mention the fact that you are so undeniably a Maine author! Perhaps at your convenience you would be willing to send us a little more detail, such as your birthdate, birthplace, and any other notably interesting facts. Is your nephew whom you call John Gould the writer of that name who gave us NEW ENGLAND TOWN MEETING, and has occasional columns, both humorous and wise, in the Christian Science Monitor? One good bit of advice merits another: since he urged you to write COUNTRY STOREKEEPER, we wish you would urge him to do another book, incorporating more fully the experiences of which the newspaper articles hint.

Our good wishes continue for your book, which promises to be of unusual interest, and not a little humor.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary

R. E. GOULD

AGENT FOR AMERICAN OIL COMPANY
DEALER IN WOOD
ANSON, MAINE

Dear Jacobs.

May 27-1945

In trying to produce a new
and inscription for your copy of
"The Country Stooper" I have produced
one. I have included in the book a
chapter on "God's people" which is
a criticism of the way churches
are conducted by starting the money
for giving a bank out of the store
keepers but say a few words that would
put me in a better light and kindly
I put on this idea and it goes back
unto my proposition and finally I sent
it off to the publishers with a sug-
gestion that they might include it
in their magazine if they like it.
I am very pleased that you inspired it
and if they turn it down you can
have it for the newspaper if you
want it.

Very truly yours
R. E. Gould

R. E. GOULD
AGENT FOR AMERICAN OIL COMPANY
DEALER IN WOOD

The Country Workkeeper in Heaven
Maple & I.

The hastening sun sinks in the west
and soon I must lie down to rest.
Time always has seemed short to me
soon I shall have Eternity.

Friuid God upon that Golden Shore
where saints prais thee forevermore
I know as man has no share fair.
In these delights and scenes so fair.
But if there be some humble task
I hope I might serve here's what I ask
no power past no place of pride
I would take little help to fide
not in some golden Chariot proud.
But in a fibber rattling load.
I draw along the ready lanes
I passed around the bounding plains
set down upon the lofty hills
of snow then squirrel on the pine
and lily ponds and thickets dense
wherein a deer might chance to lurk
Perhaps a good chuck at his work
I show them where the big buck lay
and when at last we'd find our day
if bring them high up sweets and peals
and then at last we'd climb the stairs
and when into their beds they'd creep
I hold their hands while they sleep.

R. E. Gould ~~Mar 27~~ 1945

March 27, 1945

Mr. R. E. Gould
Anson
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

We like the poem! As an inscription in COUNTRY STOREKEEPER, it would certainly be unusual and original, and we commend your suggestion that it be so used. We are flattered that any word of ours should have prompted in any way this picture of small boys having a wonderful ride.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Secretary

R. E. GOULD
AGENT FOR AMERICAN OIL COMPANY
DEALER IN WOOD
ANSON, MAINE

March 28/1945

Dear Mr. Jacob:

John Gould may well be the author of New England Town Meeting and other works also written for the Monitor, New York Times, Boston Post & other papers. He has a new book coming out this summer. He didn't tell me the title but some time since he told me he was at work on "The Country Correspondent" and I infer this is it. Regarding his biography. Orr was born in Hinton in 1870. I am a little hazy in the book. I don't know of any but prominent parents, my father being poor & my mother poorest. What ever liking I have for books & general knowledge came from my mother and her humor & ability to tell a story came from my father. My father was with the 16th Maine at the battle of Gettysburg and his stories of the first day's battle was a very vivid picture. He was the oldest of 8 children in my school stopped very early when I was nine & stopped during the spring & fall terms but managed to get in the winter terms.

R. E. GOULD
AGENT FOR AMERICAN OIL COMPANY
DEALER IN WOOD
ANSON, MAINE

At fourteen I was all alone except
an injury that prevented my work-
ing, enabled me to get a part of a term
in High School. You know I doubt
have passed as much from my
working. When my father died
I wrote the inscription that was
put on a bronze tablet on a boulder
on the left in Lisbon Falls Cemetery.
I think this is it

1768 Jacob Gould 1863

PIONEER

who penetrated the wilderness at the
age of 19 and established a home
on the eastern slope of Lisbon Ridge

1840 Thomas J Gould 1929

Soldier and Farmer.

who succeeded to his father on his return
from his military service and by his
Industry Prudence and Self Denial
converted this rocky hillside into a fertile farm

This boulder from the acres they cleared
so well is erected as a memorial to their

Rugged Virtues

By their descendants,

This will give you an idea of our background

R. E. GOULD
AGENT FOR AMERICAN OIL COMPANY
DEALER IN WOOD

ANSON, MAINE

You will note that my grandfather
was 95 when he died and that he
was 73 when my father was born
and he had two children after that.
I had a little son born when I was
69 and my greatest sorrow
is that he was drowned a year ago
I shall never get over that. He was
just like me and wanted to be with me
all the time. Perhaps this will show
you how I feel when I write the
verses that I sent to you the other
day.

Very truly yours
R. Gould

R. E. GOULD
GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Distributor of
American Oil Company Products

ANSON, MAINE,

May 21 5
194.....

Dear Madam

The Stephen Daye
Press has been declared bankrupt
rupt & the president is in jail
according to the W.F. Lewis so
I think it unlikely that
the country store keeper
will appear this month
I have a letter from Whittlesay
town asking to see it so
may get it passing Sunday
I put in a lame effort to see
edition of at least 1000 copies was
not published in 6 days the
was reverts to me & that time
is up July 7. Hoping for the best
Yours truly
R.E. Gould

May 22, 1945

Mr. R. E. Gould
Anson
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Thank you for letting us know about the misfortune of the Stephen Daye Press. We are exceedingly sorry to hear this. It is to be hoped, however, that COUNTRY STOREKEEPER may be published without undue delay. We look forward with eagerness to seeing it.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

R. E. GOULD

ANSON, MAINE

August 25¹⁹⁴⁵

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:
You may be interested to know that today I have signed a contract with the McGraw-Hill Book Co. - Whittlesey House - to publish the Country Storekeeper (tentative title) and they are to pay me \$1000⁰⁰ advance royalties. This would seem to guarantee that it will be published and you will get your expenses as if it looks to me as if I was lucky that the Stephen Dyer press folded up as they did as Whittlesey Corp are quite a concern.

Yours truly

R. E. Gould

August 29, 1945

Mr. R. E. Gould
Anson
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Thank you very much for keeping us posted about the progress of A COUNTRY STOREKEEPER. We certainly hope it may be available soon, for we look forward with great eagerness to reading this unusual book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

R. E. GOULD

ANSON, MAINE

Nov 11

1945

Dear Mrs Jacob:

It may interest you
that my agents in New York write
me, that they have sold the serial
rights to 25,000 words of my book
to the Saturday Evening Post for
publication in February & March for
\$5,000. The book to be delayed until
April. I do not know what to make
of such conduct and am haunted
by a fear that I may become liable
to a charge of getting money by
false pretences. It seems pretty
wonderful to me.

Very truly yours

R. E. Gould

November 15, 1945

Mr. R. E. Gould
Anson
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

How very nice of you to let us know of the new good luck about your book. Congratulations upon the appearance in such an exclusive publication! We are rather depressed to think that this means another delay before we can see the whole book, but we shall watch eagerly for the February and March Posts.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

March 19, 1946

Mr. R. E. Gould
Anson
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

The literary appetite has been so whetted by the Post excerpts from your book, and by your radio appearances, that we suspect many others are, like us, impatient for the actual publication of YANKEE STOREKEEPER. It cannot but enjoy a wide popularity, along with its author. We look forward to the inscribed copy which you so kindly promised for the Maine Author Collection; and, in addition, we have it of course on our order list for the library; and I have on order a copy for my personal library. Good luck to the book !

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

R. E. GOULD

MADISON, MAINE

March 21

194

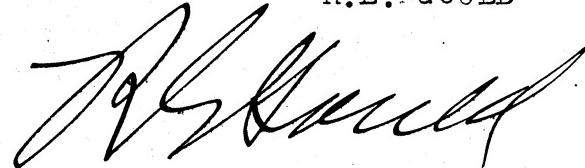
6

Dear Mrs. Jacob..

You will get your book as soon as I can get some
But this thing seems to have got everyone guessing. The date for Maine is set
at April 2nd and all the rest of the country at April 15th. They advertised
the date as apr. 2nd for all and then set it ahead. I read this that the orders
are coming in faster than they can handle them. I understand they now ex-
pect a sale of 100000 copies.

Yours Truly

R.E. GOULD



March 29, 1946

Mr. R. E. Gould
Madison
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

The delightfully inscribed copy of YANKEE STOREKEEPER for the Maine Author Collection arrived; and after the long period of waiting for its publication, we are happy to find that it more than justifies our anticipation. The book is wonderful fun to read; but it is also valuable for the picture of the country store, the storekeeper, and the community which it gives.

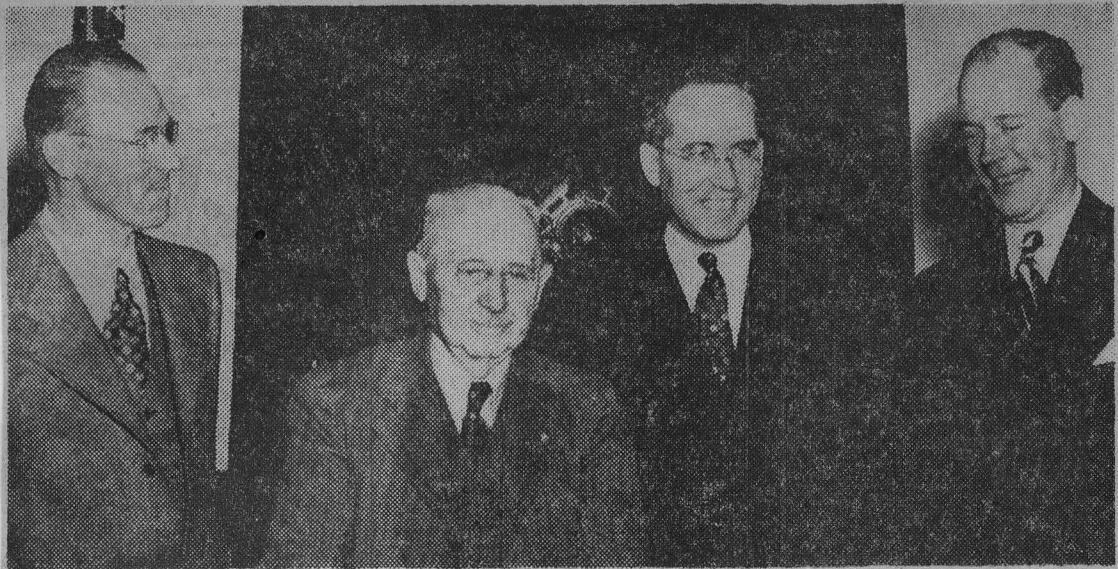
The freshness of spirit with which you write leads us to believe that you have only skimmed the top of your fund of anecdotes and experiences. They must be very nearly limitless!

Please accept our thanks for the collection copy of YANKEE STOREKEEPER, our warm good wishes for its success, and our cordial invitation to pay us a visit when you are in Augusta.

Sincerely yours

hmg

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection



—Kennebec Journal Photo

BEST SELLER AUTHOR MEETS CHIEF EXECUTIVE—Ralph E. Gould of Anson, second from left, who was principal speaker at the Augusta Rotary Club Monday night, arrived early and took in the State Capitol. During the morning he autographed his best seller—"Yankee Storekeeper"—one copy each for Governor and Mrs. Horace A. Hildreth. Governor Hildreth is shown at Mr. Gould's left. His escorts about Augusta were two merchants, Horace Ingraham, extreme left and John Leonard, right.

Tells Rotary Profits From Country Store Best When Writing About It

The profits from country stores come from writing about them and not running them, Ralph E. Gould, Anson author of the best seller "Yankee Storekeeper," told Rotary Club members Monday night.

In a series of anecdotes, the slight, 76-year-old author held his address to the 30 minutes self-imposed limit, which, he told Rotarians, was all he permitted himself since the time he had listened to a speaker who had nothing to say for two and a half hours.

Assuring his audience that each of them contains a story "just as good as any you ever read," Mr. Gould said he had never thought of writing himself until after his nephew John Gould, Lisbon Falls editor and author of "A Farmer Takes A Wife," had produced his book.

"Yankee Storekeeper" was written by pencil at night on the backs of the "reams of useless information" sent him by a national oil company for which he is an agent. It was typed from day to day by a stenographer.

When he first sent it to a publisher they accepted it and later sent it back when selective service selected too many of their employees. A second time the book went out to

a publisher against whom he had heard from his nephew accusations of crooked dealing.

Again the book came back, this time when the publisher was convicted of fraud by the Federal government.

A third time "Yankee Storekeeper" went into the mails and met with immediate success. An advance on royalties of \$1,000 was received and when the Saturday Evening Post published it serially they sent its author \$5,000.

In his remark on the profits in running a country store, Mr. Gould told of his experience with a big manufacturing firm when a field team of that company did some research in the vicinity.

After the manager had run up a large grocery bill and had consistently disregarded the proprietor's requests to settle, Mr. Gould wrote the New York office of the company.

"Gentlemen;" he wrote, "I am aware you are the biggest corporation in the United States, but unless you pay this bill you are going to be sued by the smallest man in Somerset County."

Return mail brought a check, the speaker recalled, and the manager was subsequently dismissed.

May 9, 1946

Mr. R. E. Gould
Madison
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Here is the poem, and we are delighted to have had even a small part in its preservation, delighted also to have a call from you. Do come in again.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Mr. Gould recited THE PANTS JEMIMA MADE, by Holman Day, saying that it appears nowhere in print. He says the version in PINE TREE BALLADS was a later one, not the original.

Kennebago Library May 9, 1946

THE PANTS JEMIMA MADE

Bill Peters, he had just unpacked some bran' new woollen pants.
(Bill keeps a sort of general store in a place that's called Cathance.)
It happened that the day they come, the work was sort of slack,
And several neighbors set around a-watching Bill unpack.
Bill said that woollen goods had got so gosh-all-fired cheap
There couldn't be no profit in the farmers keepin' sheep.
"But tain't took out of mine," says he, "I'm here to sell the pants,
And I've got the darndest bargain ever offered in Cathance."
The goods were gray and sort of mixed, and the weave looked pretty fair,
So much so several parties up and dickered for a pair;
And Bill said to Bial Skillings, "Bial, how're you fixed for pants?
If you want a rippin' bargain, you wont get no better chance."

Well, old Bial looked them over, and sort of shook his head,
And chawed his cud a minute, kinda solemn, and then said,
"I'll need a pair next winter, and I s'pose them's good's there be,
But when I think of what 'twas once, it well nigh puzzles me.
You younger chaps don't seem to sense the awful differunce
There is between them pants of yourn and the pants that we had once.
I swow it makes me humsick, when I step up to trade,
And the pants come up before me that Jemima Spillers made.
Miss Spillers lived in Somerset more 'n' forty year ago,
A chap that used to spark her sort of jilted her and so
She growed all-fired sour and lost her only chance,
She was so consarned old-maidish, but, by gum, she could make pants !

see corrected
edition /

"I carried her up the wool one fall, and she spun it all herself,
And wove it on one of them air looms where you set up on the shelf
And kind of wiggle back and forth, and in a little while
She slashed me out a pair of pants that wasn't much on style,
But, by gosh, if I was slimmer and could only make 'em fit,
I'd have them pants Jemmy made, a-wearin' of 'em yit.
Fust time I ever wore 'em, I was breakin' up some land
Just chock-a-full of rocks and stumps as thick as they could stand,
And right in the middle of that piece was one all-fired stump --
I'd run ag'in it often with the oxen on the jump,
But couldn't seem to fetch it. There she stood -- a roost for crows,
With one limb allus p'intin' jest as if it thumbed its nose.

"And that day it sort of riled me, and I looked at them new pants,
And says I, 'Old stumpy-doodle, here you go for one more chance.
If you beat me in this wrassle, you'll have eternal lease
On that place where you are squatted in the center of that piece!'
Then I buckled up my britches, and I spit on my fist,
And I took the god between my teeth and give the plow a twist,
And stuck it in the furrer, and grabbed the handles good and tight,
And I hollered 'Hip hoocosh thar! Git up, Star, and gee up, Bright!'
And, by gosh, we hypered across that medder, and the sile it split in two,
And parted like the Red Sea waves when that whooping east wind blew.
With every nerve a-strainin', and the oxen on the jump,
And chains as taut as fiddle strings, we struck that blasted stump.

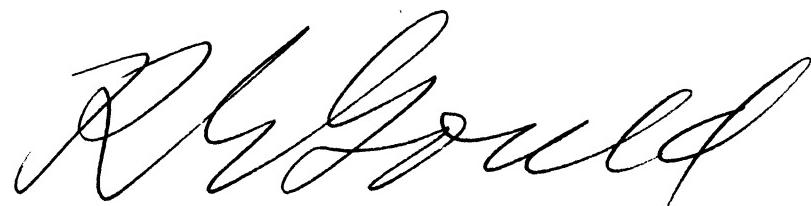
"There was an awful rippin' as if the day of doom had come.
That stump flew open just like the jaws, and we went through on the hum.
Just as I passed, them jaws come to with one tremendous crack,
And grabbed them bran' new pants right where Aunt Spillers left the slack.
That was an awful moment. It gives me the shivers now.
The stump it held my britches, but, by gosh, I held the plow!
I give a mighty hoorah, and the oxen give a lunge,
And a rarin', snortin' scramble, and they most got smashed in plunge,
And that stump come out a-kickin', but to tell the honest fac's,
I had to leave them pants right there till I could get the axe.
Oh, neighbor William Peters, I'm terribly afraid
There'll never be no more such pants as them Jemimy made."

Madison Me.
May 10
1946

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

I am returning the copy you sent me with a few corrections. Some are very slight and make no difference in the sense but do affect the rhythm and the last one is really important, I am sorry to trouble you but I felt that if we were leaving something for other generations it ought to be as nearly as correct as we could get it, I get word from New York that there have been 60000 of my books printed and the stock is nearly exhausted and they are getting out a new edition. also a firm want to buy the radio rights. I thank you for your interest and hope that I will see you again sometime.

yours very truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Gould".

May 13, 1946

Mr. R. E. Gould
Madison
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Enclosed is a corrected edition of the famous poem! It's good news about your book, isn't it? -- but not really surprising, in view of its character. Do come in again when you are down this way; your vists, though brief, have been most enjoyable.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

THE PANTS JEMIMA MADE

Bill Peters, he had just unpacked some bran' new woollen pants.
(Bill keeps a sort of general store in a place they call Cathance.)
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"I'll need a pair next winter, and I s'pose them's good's there be,
But when I think of what 'twas once, it well nigh puzzles me.
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I swow it makes me humsick, when I step up to trade,
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Miss Spillers lived in Somerset more 'n' forty year ago,
A chap that used to spark her sort of jilted her and so
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She was so consarned old-maidish, but, by gum, she could make pants !

"I carried her up the wool one fall, and she spun it all herself,
And wove it on one of them air looms where you sit on the shelf
And kind of wiggle back and forth, and in a little while
She slashed me out a pair of pants that wasn't much on style,
But, by gosh, if I was slimmer and could only make 'em fit,
I'd have them pants Jemimy made, a-wearin' of 'em yit.
Fust time I ever wore 'em, I was breakin' up some land
Just chock-a-full of rocks and stumps as thick as they could stand,
And right in the middle of that piece was one all-fired stump --
I'd run ag'in it often with the oxen on the jump,
But couldn't seem to fetch it. There she stood -- a roost for crows,
With one limb allus p'intin' jest as if it thumbed its nose.

"And that day it sort of riled me, and I looked at them new pants,
And says I, 'Old stumpy-doodle, here you go for one more chance.
If you beat me in this wrassle, you shall have eternal lease
Of that place where you are squatted in the center of that piece.'
Then I buckled up my britches, and I spit on my fist,
And I took the gad between my teeth and give the plow a twist,
And stuck it in the furrer, and grabbed the handles good and tight,
And I hollered 'Hip hooroosh thar! Git up, Star, and gee up, Bright!'
And, by gosh, we hypered 'cross that medder, and the sile it split in two,
And parted like the Red Sea waves when that whooping east wind blew.
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And chains as taut as fiddle strings, we struck that blasted stump.

"There was an awful rippin' 's if the day of doom had come.
That stump flew open just like the jaws -- we went through on the hum.
Just as I passed, them jaws come to with one tremendous crack,
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That was an awful moment. It gives me the shivers now.
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I give a mighty hoorah, and the oxen give a lunge,
And a rarin', snortin' scramble, and a most keremashin' plunge,
And that stump come out a-kickin', but to tell the honest fac's,
I had to leave them pants right there till I could get the axe.
Oh, neighbor William Peters, I'm terribly afraid
There'll never be no more such pants as them Jemimy made."

February 10, 1947

Mr. R. E. Gould
Madison
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

It is good news indeed that we may look forward to another book of your varied experiences this year. We shall watch for YANKEE DRUMMER, and we hope that your generous interest in the Maine Author Collection will continue, and that we may be privileged to add an inscribed copy of the new book.

It occurs to us that you may be able to help us in a problem which we are trying to solve for a patron. He writes that he has the song "Riding down to Bangor on an eastern train, After weeks of hunting in the woods of Maine" in a Scottish student song book; and he wants to know who wrote it and where it first appeared. We have so far been unable to determine the answer, and we dislike to be found wanting, especially in such a local matter!

If this song, as may well be, is part of your repertoire, can you tell us who wrote it and where and when it first appeared? It sounds rather like Holman Day, but we cannot find it in any of his books. If you can help us, we will be most appreciative.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl.

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

February 12 1947

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

You can have a copy of the new book when it comes out which do not expect before next fall: I do not know who wrote the song you refer to but it sounds to me like that famous song written by an English author Picking Cotton down in dear old Michigan. If Holman Day wrote this he wouldn't have a man riding on an eastern train as it would be a western train. It doesn't sound like Day to me in the least. I am sorry but I never heard of it and can't help you.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. G. Stoeckel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "H. G." on top and "Stoeckel" below it.

February 14, 1947

Mr. R. E. Gould
36 South Maple Street
Madison, Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Thank you for your letter. It is good to know that the Maine Author Collection may anticipate a copy of *YANKEE DRUMMER*, but disappointing to learn that we must wait until fall!

Apparently we are destined not to discover the source of the elusive song, but we appreciate your pointed comment on the situation.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 3, 1947

Mr. R. E. Gould
36 South Maple Street
Madison, Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

YANKEE DRUMMER is just as good as we expected it
to be, full of chuckles and wisdom, and certainly
headed for a well-deserved popularity.

The Maine Author Collection, to which you so
kindly promised an inscribed copy, waits patiently.
We look forward to including this book on its shelves,
and have a niche beside YANKEE STOREKEEPER all ready.

Good luck to the book.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

November 5 1947

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

I felt like the man who named his son Goliath because he didn't want to waste a good name on such a miserable looking thing. But I hear from New York that they are all sold out and can't fill any orders before Nov. 10th which sounds encouraging so I have sent you a copy. Your letter sounds as if you had read it. Have you seen John's new book. It makes a very fine appearance but I can't decide whether it will appear as fiction or non-fiction. I am going out to Everett Mass to speak to the Kiwanis Club on the 18th and may be on the radio with Marjorie Mills. I have got my work nearly all cleaned up for winter. I am planning a trip to the Caribbean this winter if I can find a cruise that isn't all sold out for December. I hear that my brother Frank has written a story that has been accepted by the S.E. Post. and here is a letter from a distant cousin Patricia of Cape Elizabeth who has written some stories and wants to find a publisher. The Goulds are threatened with being writers.

With best regards

R.E. GOULD

November 7, 1947

Mr. R. E. Gould
36 South Maple Street
Madison, Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

If you say so, we won't dispute you: it's a miracle.
But we're getting used to the Gould miracles now, and
sort of expect them!

Certainly I have read YANKEE DRUMMER, and it is
every bit as good as YANKEE STOREKEEPER. Now I, and
a great many other people, are waiting to see what
else you've been in your varied career, and what turn
the next book takes. No one should be in the least
worried about the success of your latest tale; it has
everything that is needed for popularity.

Your illustrious nephew's book I have only seen --
just to glance through it; my own copy hasn't come
yet, but of course that's another Gould whose writing
has a strong appeal, and I look forward to his book
with eagerness.

We hope that your cruise will be a pleasant one,
and that you will be ardently homesick.

Thank you very much for inscribing YANKEE DRUMMER
and presenting it to the Maine Author Collection. We
add it with appreciation of book and author.

Sincerely yours

hmj
Encl--4¢ postal refund

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

R. E. GOULD
36 SOUTH MAPLE STREET
MADISON, MAINE

January 27 1948

JAN 29

Dear Mrs Jacob:

I am trying to write another book about my boyhood and have written something about the Aroostook war. My father's oldest brother was a major in this war I have heard. What I have written was about the old things that hung up in our open chamber. Knapsack, Haversack, Canteen, sword, cap, gun, and bayonet saddlebags, and so on. If you have any book giving any thing about this time I would like to borrow it. I have just got back from a trip ending at Georgetown British Guiana and when they wanted to know where I came from I told them I came from the only state that ever declared war on the British Empire. They got quite a kick out of it and so did I. I have about 45000 words done and my publishers are encouraging me but I can't think it is very important but some who have read part of it say that it is good. In fact some say it is the best yet, I hope so. I saw your name in an article about the Library and it made me think that perhaps I could get enough out of a book to stretch my article another thousand words. If you have ever written any thing you realize that sometimes it is necessary to extend your remarks as they say in the congressional ~~report~~ record.

With best wishes

yours truly
R. E. GOULD

N.B. We are glad to hear of that the reports on your new book are so favorable.

January 29, 1948

Mr. Ralph E. Gould
36 Maple Street
Madison, Maine

February 12 and February 19, 1948.

ctb

DUE FEBRUARY 12 - NO RENEWAL

HOULTON SOUVENIR, Barnes, copy 3

DUE FEBRUARY 19

AROOSTOOK WAR IN REVIEW, 1939, Centennial Celebration
THE MAINE BOUNDARY CONTROVERSY, Clippings from the Northern
NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY, copy 2, Sprague
AROOSTOOK WAR, HISTORICAL SKETCH AND ROSTER, copy 3

We are glad to hear that the reports on your new book
are so favorable.

March 27, 1950

Mr. Ralph E. Gould
Madison
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Congratulations on the forthcoming book, YANKEE BOYHOOD. This could be called a series, now, couldn't it? Anyway, your faithful readers will be eagerly waiting for May 15 to bring the latest chronicle of your memory, and it certainly promises to be good reading.

We have added the title to our order list, of course; and we hope that you will want to continue your gracious and appreciated gifts to the Maine Author Collection with an inscribed copy of YANKEE BOYHOOD.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

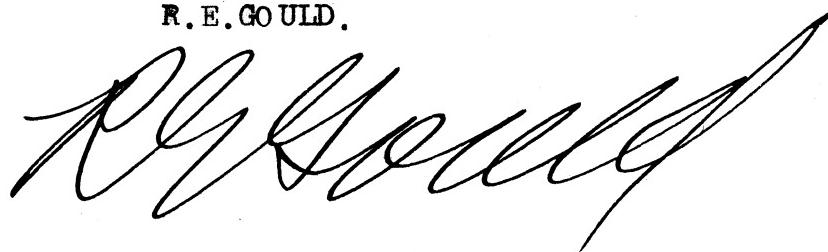
March 28 1950

Dear Mrs Jacobs :

I have your letter about the new book. I got some advance copies the other day and I think it is a much better job than either of the others. When I was writing this book I wrote in to the library to ask if you had anything bearing on the subject I was writing about and I never got a reply to my letter. I am wondering what was the matter

Yours truly

R.E.GOULD.

A large, flowing cursive signature in black ink. The letters are fluid and interconnected, appearing to begin with 'R' and end with 'G'. The signature is written over a horizontal line and has a slightly irregular, handwritten quality.

March 29, 1950

Mr. Ralph E. Gould
36 South Maple Street
Madison, Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

Your letter saying that you did not have a reply to a letter addressed to us puzzles us a little. We can only assume that a letter strayed in the mail, because we did of course answer the one you wrote on January 27, 1948, in which you said: "I am trying to write another book about my boyhood and have written something about the Aroostook War..... If you have any book giving anything about this time I would like to borrow it."

At that time we sent you several items, and expressed our pleasure that the reports on your new book were so favorable. Your letter and a copy of our reply are in our files, but we find no further correspondence, so we feel that the letter which you report unanswered must have been another which was lost in the mail.

We are deeply sorry that this happened, and we wish that you had written in a few days, when you had no reply. We presume that it is too late now, inasmuch as YANKEE BOYHOOD is now published; but if such a situation should occur again, please write and inquire about a delay.

We hope that the welcome given to YANKEE BOYHOOD will be gratifyingly warm and lasting. We look forward to seeing a copy soon.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

April 2 1950

Dear Mrs Ja cob:

I have your letter and this explains it. I wrote to see if you had anything on a murder case. The man's name was Seigel or some thing like it. He lived in ~~Waterloo~~ Hallowell and His was the last Public execution in Maine. The incident was not used in my story so the need for information is past. The publishers say very good things about the new book and they say they already have orders for 6500 copies and when you think that some one has said that the total sales for books average about 1800 you can see that I feel pretty good. I will send you a book when they are published. I have just received an invitation to come to a book fair to be held in Portsmouth and be the Principal speaker and have my books on sale this is on the 12th and 3rd of May and the book is not to be published until the 15th I hope the publishers will allow the book to be on sale at that time. Some day soon I may be in Augusta and will try and stop in and see you.

Very truly yours

R.E. GOULD

May 9, 1950

Mr. R. E. Gould
Madison
Maine

Dear Mr. Gould:

The autographed copy of your new book, YANKEE BOYHOOD, has arrived, and we place it in the Maine Author Collection with genuine appreciation of the gift and of your generous interest.

It is as full of real Maine humor and wisdom as were your earlier ones, and we feel confident that your account of those days will find a sympathetic popularity with readers.

Our thanks and congratulations go to you, and we hope you will find it possible to call and say hello on some of your journeyings about the state.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

